ISLAND CHEMICAL/
VIRGIN ISLANDS
EPA ID# VID980651095

EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 01
Christiansted, St. Croix

Site Description

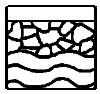
The Island Chemical/Virgin Island Chemical site (the Site) is a 3.5-acre facility located in the southwest portion of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The surrounding area is predominantly commercial, with five businesses located adjacent to the site and the closest resident located approximately 0.1 mile to the south. An intermittent stream, River Gut, which originates north of the site and discharges to the Caribbean Sea, borders the northern and eastern site boundaries.

The Site is owned by Charles H. Steffey, Inc. The Site has been leased to various chemical manufacturers throughout its history. On May 1, 1969 Steffey leased the property to Houston Chemical Industries, Inc. Houston Chemical assigned the lease to Caribe Chemical Company Inc., (subsequently known as Pierrel America, Inc.) on March 20, 1972. On June 30, 1978 Pierrel America assigned the ground lease to Cooper Laboratories, Inc. (Cooper). On October 30, 1979 Cooper assigned the lease to its subsidiary, Island Chemical Company (ICC). On November 1, 1979 Cooper sold all of the stock of ICC to the predecessor of Berlex Laboratories, Inc. (Berlex). On September 14, 1984, ICC sold its assets to Virgin Island Chemical Company (VICC). The facility was used for the manufacture of pharmaceutical chemicals, primarily phenacetin, ethoxyquin, and quinidine. VICC produced benzyl acetate, which is used in perfumes, flavorings, resin, lacquers, printing inks, and varnish removers. In 1985, VICC also began producing benzyl salicylate, which is used as a perfume fixative, as a solvent for synthetic musk, and is an ingredient in sunscreening lotion. The site is currently inactive.

Site Responsibility: This site will be addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 01/18/94
Final Date: 06/17/96

Threats and Contaminants



The predominant constituents impacting subsurface soil in the AST area are ethylbenzene, xylenes, acetone, and methylene chloride. Chloroform was detected in the Process Pit area.

Methylene chlroide, ethylbenzene, xylenes and chloroform were deteced in groundwater monitoring wells above the MCLs.

Clean up Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: On January 31 and February 1, 1989, the EPA conducted a preliminary assessment and removal evaluation at the Site. At that time the laboratory/warehouse building was found to contain approximately 400 drums, some extremely deteriorated; leaking cylinders of chlorine and hydrogen chloride; and over 800 containers of laboratory reagents that included sodium metal, potassium cyanide, and ethyl ether. EPA removed 205 55-gallon drums, 40 85-gallon drums, 9 5-gallon drums of various chemicals, and 8,061 pounds of lab pack chemicals from the laboratory/warehouse buildings.

Entire Site: On September 29, 1994, EPA, Island Chemical Company and Berlex Laboratories, Inc. entered into an Administrative Order on Consent. The Order required Berlex and Island Chemical Company to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study for the Site. The field activities were conducted by Harding Lawson Associates and Caribbean Hydro Tech, contractors for Island Chemical Company. The field work for the Site began on January 9, 1995 and continued through November 1995. A second phase of field work to further characterize the extent of contamination in the tank farm area was initiated on May 21, 1996 and continued through May 29, 1996. The results of the sampling indicated that there are soil and groundwater contamination. On June 9, 1997, phase III field investigation was implemented to characterize the extent of contamination in the River Gut and to install additional shallow and deep monitoring wells. In August 1997, Berlex retained Mclaren Hart to complete the rest of the RI/FS. All phases of field investigation is completed. Pharmacia & Upjohn and Berlex retained ERTEC, Inc. to conduct a treatability study at the Site. The SVE treatability field work was completed in June 2000. The RI and Risk Assessment were completed in November 2000. The Feasibsility Study was finalized in Fall 2001. A Record of Decision is expected this Spring. The site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List on June 17, 1996.

Cleanup Progress

Immediate actions such as the removal of leaking contaminated drums have reduced the risk posed to the health and safety of the nearby population while additional site investigations are being

conducted.

Site Repository

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